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May-pole exercises

THE CENTRAL CHILDREN'S ROOM
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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

MAY-POLE EXERCISES.

(Curwen's Edition, 5201.)

A COLLECTION OF EXERCISES COMPILED FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS IN INFANT SCHOOLS.

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BY

MISS E. HUGHES.

LONDON:
J. CURWEN & SONS Ltd., 24 BERNERS STREET, W.

Price One Shilling.
Forster Lat Stationers Hall.

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THE PUBLISHERS have made arrangements to supply Maypoles with braids, on hire or sale, as follows—

9ft. pole, with revolving top and 8 braids 25/-
" " " 12 braids 26/6

A pole with 12 braids may be had on hire, price 5/- for the first week, and 2/6 per week afterwards. Carriage *(per Goods Train)* is payable by the hirer (weight of pole 50 lbs.).

Braids can also be supplied separately. Green, red, blue, white, and yellow braid is kept in stock, and can be made up in any length. The following are the most useful sizes—

12ft. braid for 9ft. pole, $\frac{7}{8}$" wide ... ... 6d. each . 4/6 per doz.
" " $1\frac{1}{4}$" " ... ... 9d. .. 6/9 "
18ft. " " 15ft " $\frac{7}{8}$" " ... ... 9d. .. 7/- "
" " $1\frac{1}{4}$" " ... ... 1/- .. 10/- ..

(Postage 1d. each, 4d. per dozen.)

The braid is also supplied in pieces (24 yards) at 2/- per piece *(postage 1½d.)* in the narrow width; and 3/- per piece *(postage 2d.)* in the broad width.

The green braid is specially dyed for us, as we find it is an effective colour, and is not to be procured elsewhere.

All the prices quoted above are net school prices.

THE GUILD OF PLAY BOOK. *Curwen's Edition*, No. 5634. Contains programs, among others, for an early English Mayday and a Modern Mayday.

The following CANTATAS introduce a Maypole Dance—

			STAFF.	S.-F.
3199	HAWTHORNGLEN ...	W. L. Frost	2/-	9d.
3268	LITTLE BOY BLUE . ..	M. A. Ward	1/6	4d.
3291	MASQUE OF MAYTIME	... A. Poyser	2/6	
3293	MAY FESTIVAL	... J. Booth	2d.	2d.
3320	MUSICAL VILLAGE	M. Johnston	1/6	6d.
3368	QUEEN FLORA'S GARDEN PARTY	A. L. Cowley	2/6	6d.
3370	QUEEN OF THE MAY...	E. O. Gilbert	2/-	6d.
3371	QUEEN OF THE SEASONS ...	W. S. Roddie	1/6	3d.
3463	TWIN SISTERS	H. S. Saroni	2/-	6d.

Full particulars will be found in our Descriptive Catalogue of School Cantatas.

ACTION SONGS.

1155 MAYPOLE DANCE .. .. A. L. Cowley 1/-
1156 MERRILY ROUND THE MAYPOLE ... ... W. L. Frost 1/-

In REDHEAD'S SCHOOL SONGS.

27712 MAYPOLE DANCE ... *Both notations.* 3d.

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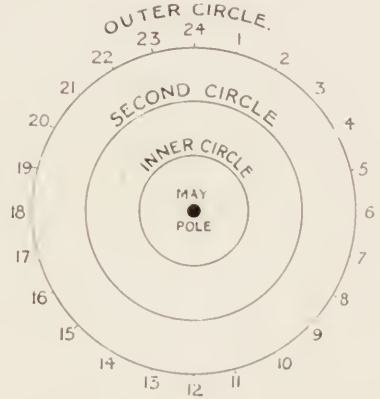
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ANY number of children divisible by four may engage in this dance. Twenty-four is a good number. Either girls alone or boys and girls mixed may take part. In the latter case the boys should be the odd numbers, and the girls the even. Three circles are required to be drawn round the pole on the floor, the outer one sufficiently far away to enable the children to hold the braids tightly stretched from the top of the pole; the innermost as close to the pole as it is possible to make it, so as to hold all the children standing close together; the other midway between the two. The outer circle should be equally divided, and each child's place indicated by a number.



If the braids are simply red, white, and blue, much confusion will be avoided. The odd numbers have white braids and the even numbers have red and blue braids alternately. Half the braids will thus be white, a fourth blue, and a fourth red. A large loop should be made at the end for the child to slip the hand in.

Odd and even numbers take hands in couples, or form for polka, crossing hands in front, and at a given chord begin dancing or tripping from class-room to the "Pole," tripping once round, and stopping before their own mark or number, but continuing to keep time by tripping until the tune ends. If the children use the polka step, a very good tune to select is "See me dance the Polka," it marks the time well. A good plan is to let the children give a little heavier step on the third beat, thus making the time more pronounced, and securing evenness of movement. If only tripping is used, the "Keel Row" is a good lively tune to use.

THE "POLE"

May be purchased at any Educational Depôt, and should be of a suitable height for the room in which it is to be taken. To secure it firmly, a socket should be made in the floor, and the Pole sunk about 9 or 12 inches. The top should revolve, and to this gaily coloured ribbons or (what are still more serviceable) braids (military) should be fastened.

1st Practice.

"THE BARBER'S POLE."

Tune– "Sing a Song of Sixpence."

Even numbers stand on inner circle and right turn; odd numbers on outer circle and left turn. At the commencement of tune, the even numbers skip round while the odd numbers stand in their places. When they have been once round, the odd numbers skip round, going the opposite way. Continue skipping until the braids are all wound round the Pole, then reverse position and undo.

2nd Practice.

"THE ROPES."

Children divide into sixes—the centre two of each group kneel on the inner circle. The four left dance round the two kneelers and so wind the braids into ropes. When a portion is so wound they stand while a tambourine song is sung; other children skip into the tent and shake tambourines, skipping around in and out of the others until song is finished

"Beneath the golden orange grove" (J. Curwen & Sons Ltd., price 1s.) is a pretty song to choose.

3rd Practice.

"THE SPIDER WEB."

Song—"Crafty Old Spider."

Children to marks on outer circle and hold braid loosely in right hand. Keep time to music, then each even number twists her braid twice with her own partner's and passes on to the next odd number to the right hand, and twists her braid twice with her, and then passes to the next, continuing to twist and pass on until she has made eight twists. Each child then stands as far from the Pole as its braid will allow, generally to the second circle, and pull their braids to tighten them. As they stand round the web, they may sing the song entitled, "A Crafty Old Spider," by Watson (Curwen), or repeat "Will you walk into my parlour?" after which they turn and undo the web, dancing in and out to the music.

4th Practice.

"THE DOUBLE PLAIT."

Tune—Polka.

The even number hands her braid to partner to hold with hers, and then either takes her arm or they cross hands. Blue and White braids **right turn,** Red and White **left turn.** In this way they skip in and out round the Pole, as in the grand chain, pausing to bow slightly to each set of partners at each bar of the music. After plaiting until tune has been played three or four times, they reverse and undo. If the even number takes the odd number's arm, then the hand at liberty should be raised on the hip.

5th Practice.

"THE GIPSY TENT."

Song, "Little Gipsy Jane," or *Watson's* "Little Gipsies."

Five or six (according to number of children) separate plaits are made, four children making one marked on plate, ***A, B, C, D.*** ***A*** and ***B*** twist their braids by ***B*** passing under and over ***A.*** ***C*** and ***D*** do the same, keeping time with their feet, then ***B*** twists her braid with ***C*** (***A*** and ***D*** standing at their own mark, and keeping time to the music). Each set of four children do the same, twisting at the same time. When they have twisted to make four large diamonds down the centre of each set, the children ***B*** and ***C*** of each set stand to the inner circle and hold their braid very loosely, while ***A*** and ***D*** draw theirs very straight and tight.

When the tent is plaited, the children sing their song. They may either stand as shown in the plate, or sit on their circle facing partner, gipsy fashion. Watson's "Little Gipsies" (Curwen) forms a suitable song for this exercise. The braids are unplaited after the song is finished, in the same way they were plaited, the children dancing to whatever tune is selected.

6th Practice.

"THE SINGLE PLAIT."

Tune—Lancers (The Original).

READY.—At the first chord, the odd numbers step four in and four out, bringing their own and their partner's braid, which they hand to the even numbers, each set of partners bowing. At the second chord, odd numbers turn to the right, holding the loop of the braid in the right hand, and slipping the left hand as high up the braid as they can reach conveniently; the even numbers at the same time take left turn, and hold the braids in a similar way, but in the reverse hands. The teacher now counts one, two, three, four, to mark the time, and at the first note the odd numbers pass under the even numbers' braids, then both odd and even numbers dance in and out, letting their braids pass over and under each other, until the tune has been played a certain number of times, or until they each meet their own partner the second or third time, according to length of braid or the amount plaited. All then put their backs towards the Pole, holding the braid over the shoulder and continue stepping to tune. At the command "**Change,**" each child should reverse its original position as well as its braid, odd numbers taking left turn, even numbers right, and dance again until all is unplaited and their number gained. This dance is exactly taken as the Grand Chain, or the last figure of the Lancers. It forms "The Single Plait." It is a good plan to let the children repeat to themselves "over," "under," as they go along. A march should be played while making the plait, and a polka to undo.

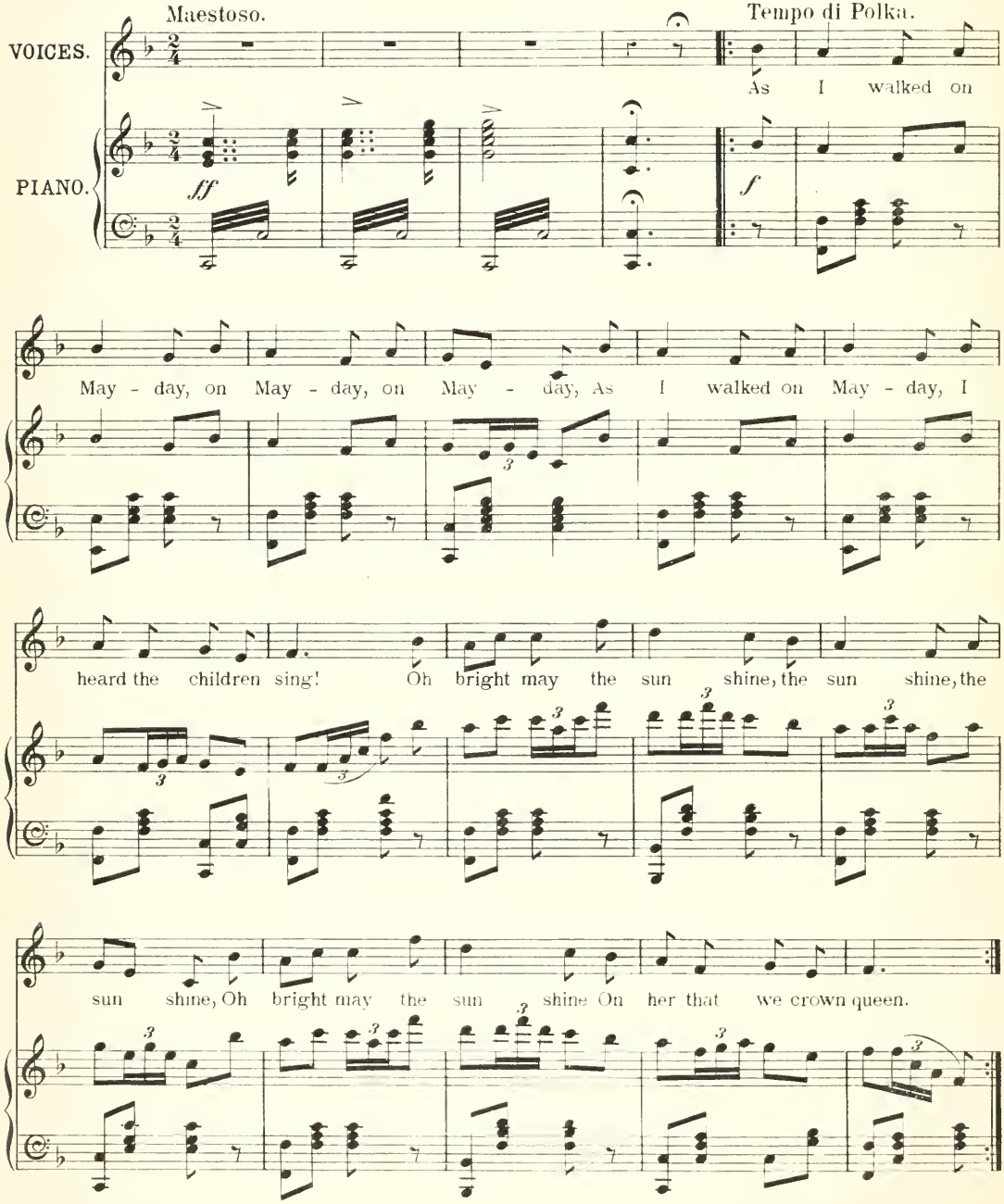
7th Practice.

"THE CROSS."

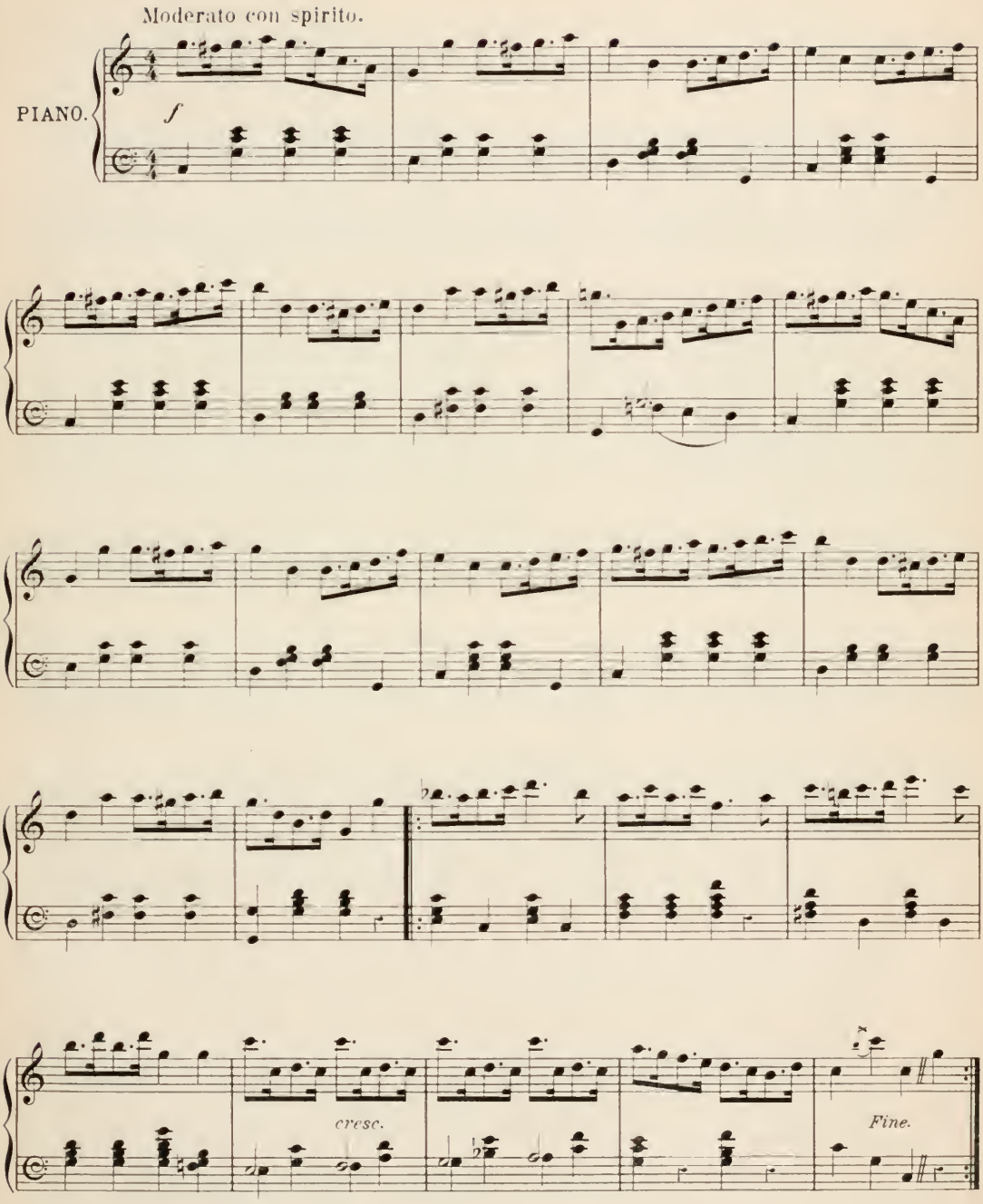
Children divide into four. Six in each group, and trip to lines formed in a cross. When the lines are formed, the children march shoulder to shoulder in a firm line until they reach another line, where they pause, march again, and so on until they resume their first position. The Union Jack may be held at the end of each line by an extra child, and a National song used for this exercise, such as, "We live in happy England," tune of "Grenadiers." When the Seventh Exercise is finished, the children take their places at the front of the Pole, and sing some suitable song for the May-pole; or if at an entertainment, a "Good Night" song.

Music for "May Pole Exercises."

Introduction.

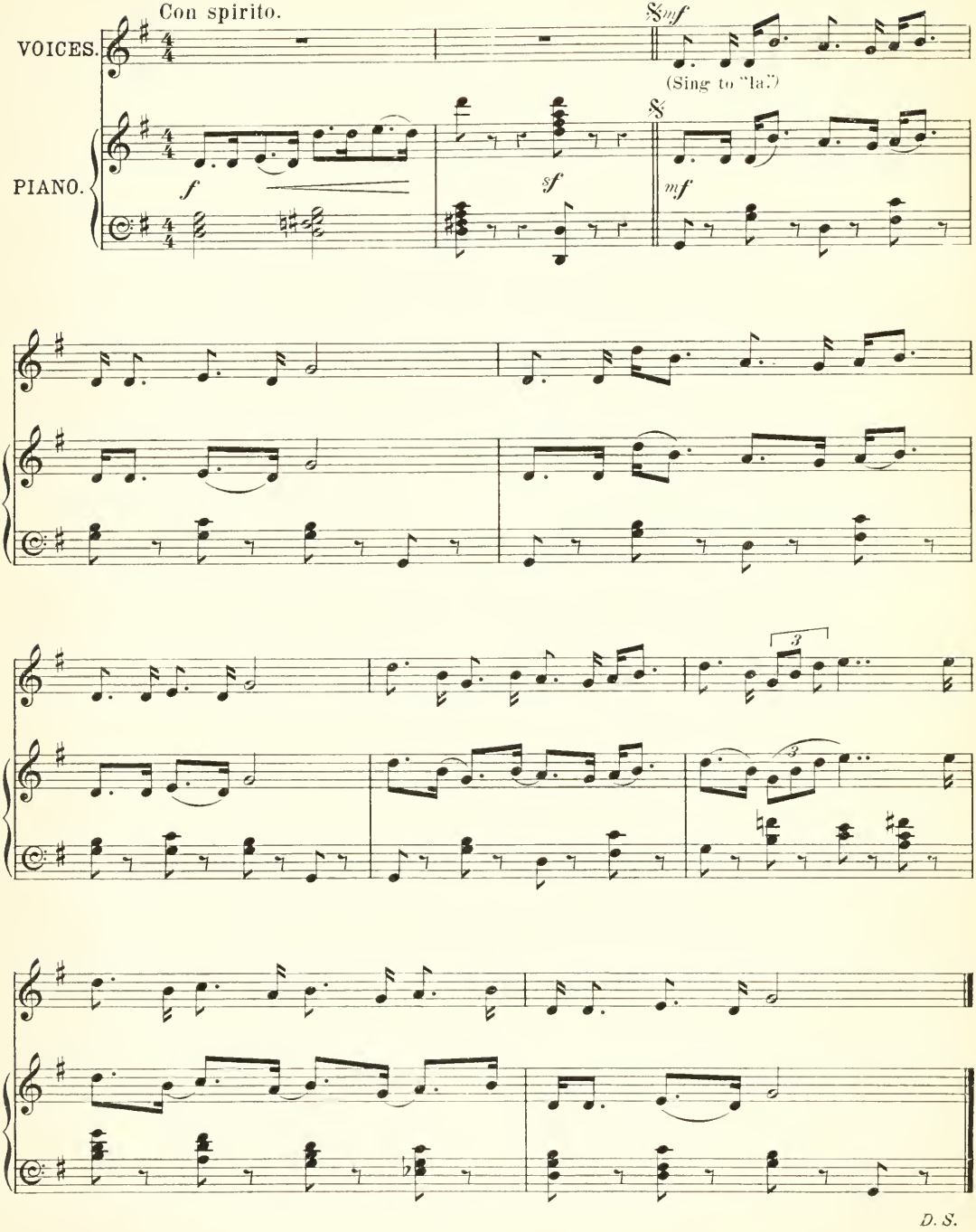

Maestoso.
Tempo di Polka.
VOICES.
PIANO.
ff
f
As I walked on
May - day, on May - day, on May - day, As I walked on May - day, I
heard the children sing! Oh bright may the sun shine, the sun shine, the
sun shine, Oh bright may the sun shine On her that we crown queen.

First Practice.



D. C. ad lib.

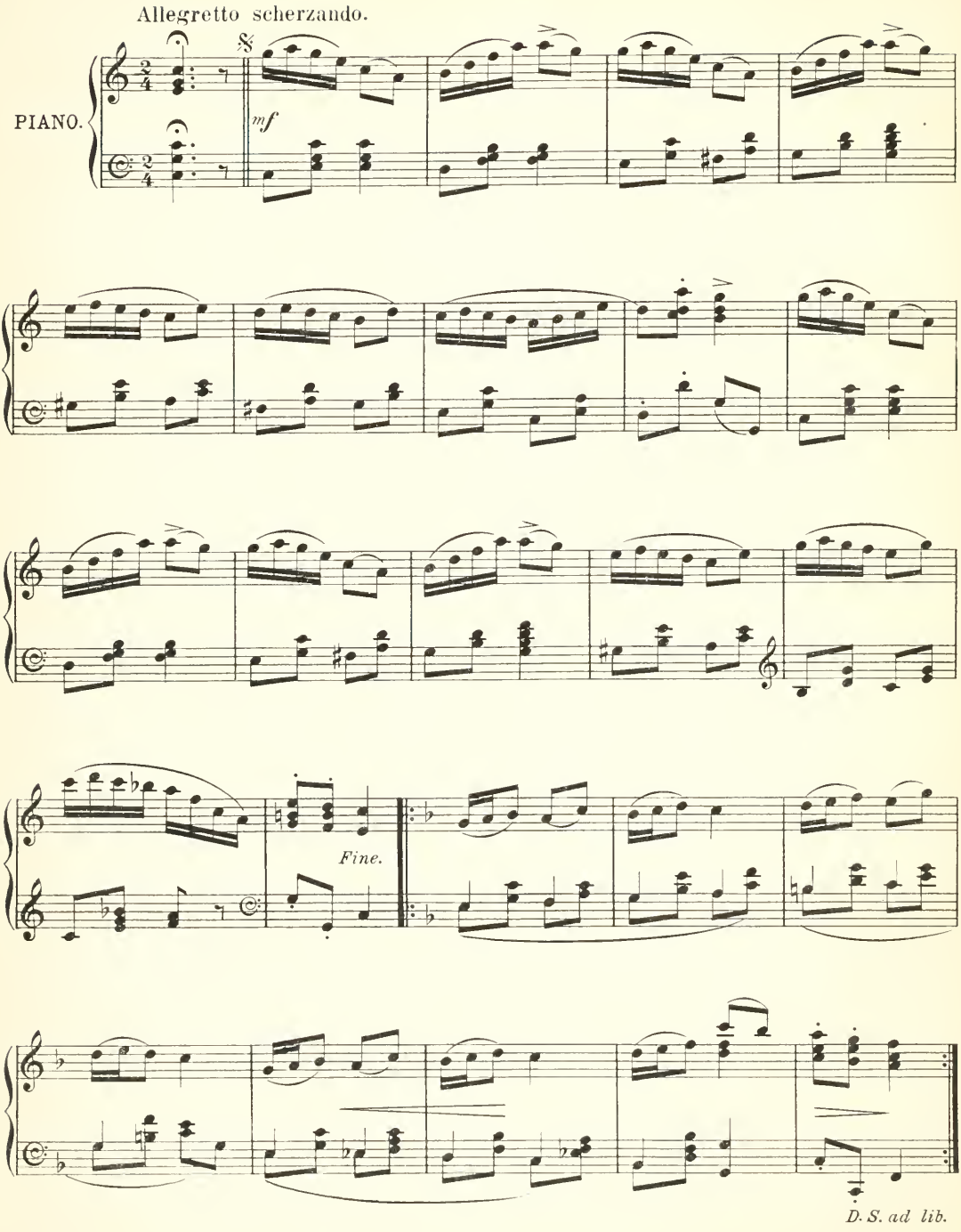
Second Practice.



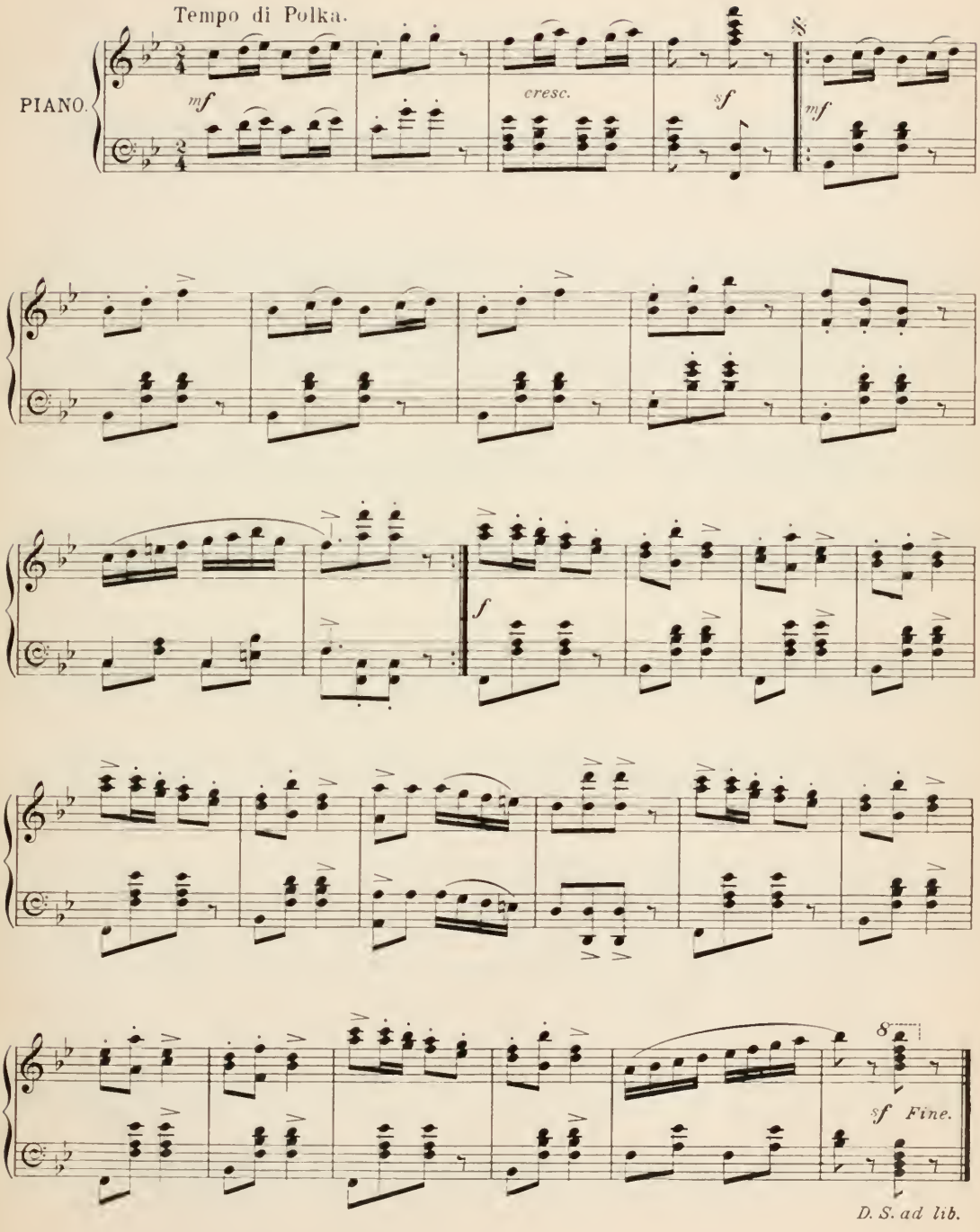
Third Practice.

Con moto.
VOICES.
PIANO.
mp
mp
See the wa - ter - wheel go round With a — splash - ing,
foam - ing sound, While the stream its
cresc.
floats doth fill, Ne - ver i - dly stand - ing still.
dim.

Fourth Practice.

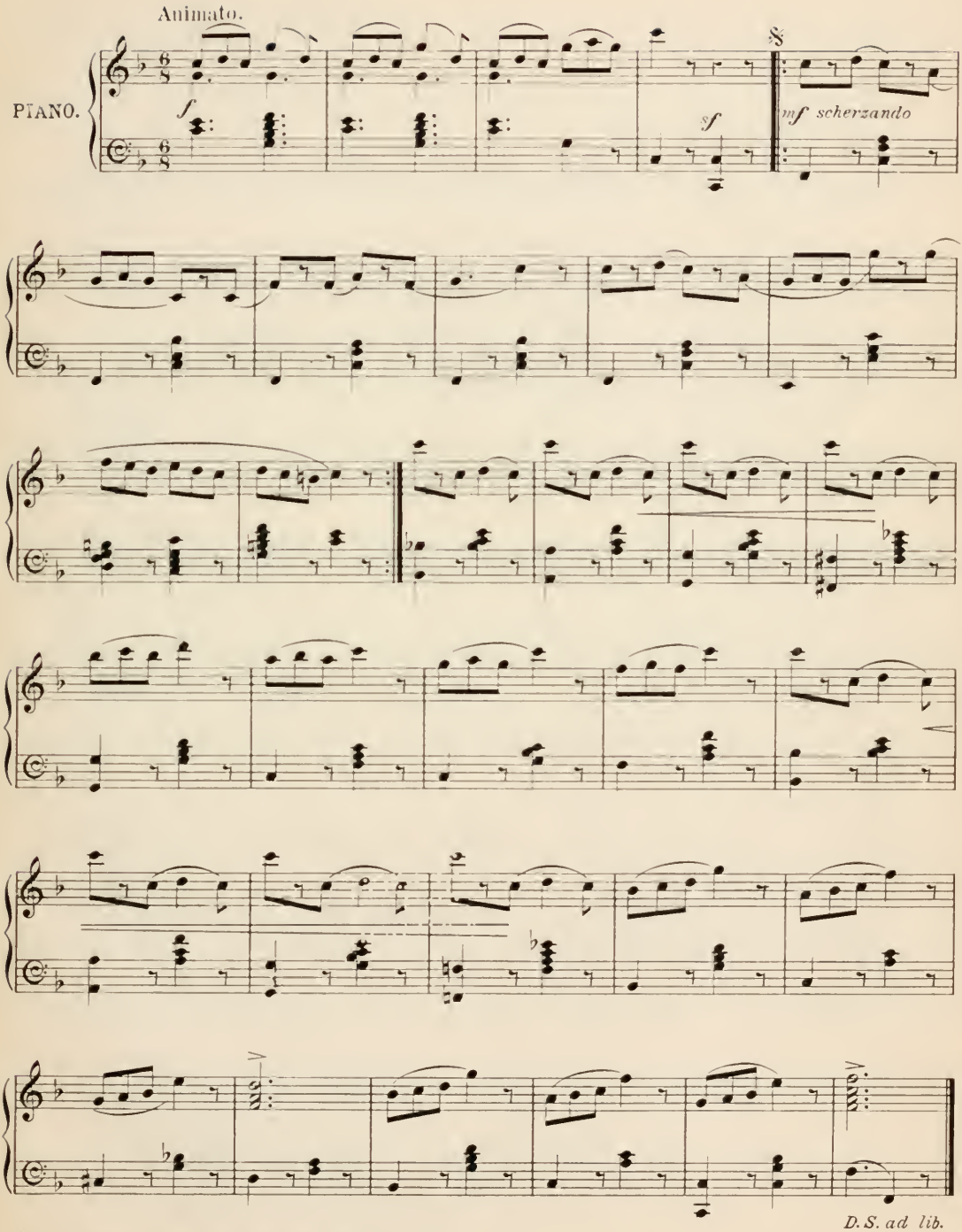


Fifth Practice.



Sixth Practice.

Seventh Practice.



At the conclusion of this Exercise go at once to CODA.

Coda.

VOICES.
PIANO.
Danc-ing here so light - ly
In our mer-ry play, Thus we braid the May-pole In the Month of May.
Fa la la la lal lal, Fa la la la la, Thus we braid the May-pole
scherzando
In the Month of May.
Presto.
Ped.